GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6906
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
AGRICULTURE WHOLESALE MARKETS
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions available in the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution about Agriculture wholesale markets;

(b) the norms and standards prescribed for Wholesale Agriculture Produce Markets in the country;

(c) based on the above norms and standards, how many Agriculture produce wholesale markets of different sizes are required in the country;

(d) the manner in which the gap between the required and available markets would be fulfilled in the next five years;

(e) the details of components of large `Agriculture Wholesale Markets`;

(f) whether the Government propose to construct these markets from 2% levy, charged on Agriculture Produce in these markets; and

(g) if so, the details thereabout?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The Constitution (Seventy Third Amendment) Act, 1992 provides under Article243G that the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to:

(i) The preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;

(ii) The implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. `Markets and Fairs` are listed as item No.22 of the Eleventh Schedule.

(b)to(d): There are no prescribed norms or standards fixed for wholesale agricultural markets in the country. Therefore, it is difficult to arrive at the exact number of such markets, which are required in the country. The responsibility for establishment of such markets, keeping in view the requirements, lies with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(e): The components of agricultural wholesale markets are determined by the type and scale of commodities handled, the marketing practices followed and the number and kind of market users. The main components of a large agricultural wholesale market in general are the following:-

(i) Shops of traders/agents

(ii) Storage/ripening facilities

(iii) Producers` common auction platforms

(iv) Roads and parking

(v) Service lanes

(vi) Electrification

(vii) Drinking water facilities

(viii) Tea and snacks stalls

(ix) Toilet blocks

(x) Market Administration Office and

(xi) Banks/Post Offices/telephones/offices.

(f): Matters relating to the imposition of levy in the markets and establishment and maintenance of agricultural wholesale markets come within the purview of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Government of India has at present no proposalto construct wholesale agricultural markets.

(g): Question does not arise.